

From: E.Palmer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 6:05pm
Subject: Money is no object.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak regarding the settlement.

I am a person of few words, especially when I am not entirely embroiled with the details of this case. I would rather convey more of a personal and professional take on this matter.

Microsoft has created a generation of people that feel victimized every time they load Microsoft products onto their machines. Many of us outside the corporate structure have little time and resources to deal with the inadequacies of their products, but since Microsofty has embedded itself as the industry standard, it is near impossible to be productive with any other software.

Making them pay exuberant amounts of money is almost ineffectual for what they lose in a year to this case, they will make back in three years with little or no serious change within their company. Bill Gates and his close friend Steve Ballmer, will be able to walk through this and continue to prosper. Microsoft is still a major influence on all levels, and I think the punishment should adhere to all of these levels.

I am not requesting a complete overhaul, or disassembly of this company. I would rather see it humbled before the law, for in this professional computer user's opinion, they will continue to laugh their way to the bank no matter what obstacles they will step over. It is already the opinion within the tech world that our justice system's lack of current technology and trends allowed Microsoft to skate by on ignorance and misinformation.

In Summary, I believe the correct punishment should cover the crime. If Microsoft has made billions of dollars for it's anti-competitive practices than it should relinquish that which connected it to the money. I truly believe if you take away thei swagger on invincibility, they will come off of their cash lined cloud, and join the rest of us on the ground and really see what they have done to those who depend on them. They frighten all of us because if they do not fear the law, how can the common programmer or elementary teacher make a stand. Thank you and good day.

-E.Palmer
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